

## Message Text

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64

ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 SS-15 /035 W

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R 101308Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2456

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USIRJC, AFSP, IR

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL COOPERATION ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

REF:

(A) STATE 153512

(B) TEHRAN 6083

(C) STATE 96982

1. DURING UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON'S VISIT, ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS RELATING TO JOINT COMMISSION COOPERATION WERE DISCUSSED WITH VAFA AT THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE BY POATS, DCM AND ADMIN COUNSELOR. SUBSEQUENT TO VISIT, FURTHER DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD WITH VAFA BY DCM AND ADMIN COUNSELOR.

2. SENIOR DEPUTY MINISTER MEHRAN TOLD CHARGE EVENING JULY 9 THAT VAFA HAS PREPARED A DRAFT AGREEMENT ON EXPEDITURES WHICH HE BELIEVES REFLECTS BOTH DISCUSSIONS HE HAS HAD AND EVOLVING CONSENSUS AMONG MINISTRIES WHICH WOULD LIKE TO ENGAGE U.S. EXPERTS. GIST OF CONSENSUS IS THAT EACH MINISTRY WOULD PAY THE CONTRACTING U.S. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY FOR SALARY, HOUSING ALLOWANCE, FURNISHINGS, TRANSPORTATION COSTS, ALL "ACCORDING TO U.S. STANDARDS" WITH DISPERSAL OF PAYMENTS ADMINISTERED BY U.S. GOVERNMENT.

3. MEHRAN EMPHASIZED THAT HE HAD NOT PERSONALLY HAD OPPORTUNITY TO FOCUS ON DRAFT DOCUMENT BUT HOPES TO GIVE US "HIS FINAL VIEWS IN NEAR FUTURE." HE MENTIONED  
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THAT IN ANY CASE BECAUSE THESE TYPES OF RELATIONSHIPS WERE NEW TO MANY OF THE GOI MINISTRIES INVOLVED; E.G., HEALTH AND HOUSING AREAS, HE DID NOT THINK THAT PLANS FORMULATED WOULD MOVE FORWARD IN TIMEFRAME WE HAD OUT-

LINED (REF C). HE ADDED THAT PROCESS OF GAINING INTERNAL CONSENSUS HAD BEEN SLOWED DOWN BY FREQUENT ABSENCES OF PERTINENT UNDER SECRETARIES. FOR EXAMPLE, VAFA IS ON THREE-WEEK CANADIAN TRIP.

4. MEHRAN FURTHER INDICATED THAT MANY OF THE MINISTRIES INVOLVED HAD NO CURRENT BUDGET PROVISION FOR SUPPORT OF FOREIGN TECHNICIANS ON THE SCALE SUGGESTED AND THAT, AS GOI WAS ENTERING PERIOD OF "RETRENCHMENT" IN EXPENDITURES AND PROGRAMS, MINISTERIAL REQUESTS WOULD BE EXAMINED BY THE PLAN AND BUDGET ORGANIZATION IN ASSOCIATION WITH NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET CYCLE.

5. WHILE GOI IS SLOWLY COMING TO GRIPS WITH USG CONCEPTUALIZATION OF JOINT COMMISSION PROGRAMS, MEHRAN'S COMMENTS ONLY CONFIRM THAT PROGRESS WILL CONTINUE TO MOVE MUCH LESS RAPIDLY THAN WE HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED. MIKLOS

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